

From The County Commissioner

Richard M Butler



100 Years of Norfolk Scouting

100 years of Norfolk Scouting has crept up on us. We have been providing quality Scouting to over $\frac{1}{2}$ a million Scouts since 1908. The first patrol known in Norfolk was the Lion Patrol founded in Norwich School and led by Claude Stafford as a Troop leader.

Headquarters registered 1st Norwich as our 1st Troop and they started the celebrations in Norfolk this year with the 1st Dereham and then 1st North Walsham following, with others I am sure yet to start the parties. The first County Commissioner was appointed in September 1908 and took up his duties in early 1909.

Norfolk County Scouts is celebrating 100 years in three ways. The wearing of the special Centenary Badge available from the Trading Post is the first. The money raised from these sales will be given to The WE CARE appeal to be used for young carers. Yet another example of Scouts helping others. Something we have done in Norfolk for the last 100 years. I hope we can contribute at least £5,000 to the appeal.

The second celebration was this last Sunday when Wymondham Abbey was full for the Centenary Service led by Revd Richard Woodham. The snow, which made a wonderful picture of the Abbey, covered Norfolk and made travel for the participants of the event so very hard and long did not detract from the celebration.

The third celebration is the encouragement to all groups to hold a centenary camp in 2009. Several Districts are banding together to hold larger camps and I hope to see many of you as I visit these events in 2009. (Maybe we can have these camps without the rain we had during the Millennium and National Centenary Camps!)

Thank you to the many Groups who have invited me to their events and activities over the last six months. I am hugely impressed by the range of activities and events you have on offer. The County Team and I have attended some 63 groups since June and we continue to be amazed at what is on offer to the young people.

As we move to the celebration of Christmas I hope you will have great fun and parties. Continue to deliver the everyday adventure our members are seeking and above all **enjoy yourselves**.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Butler', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Butler

County Commissioner

Norfolk Centenary Badge

The sales of the special badges are going very well and I see many on the shirts of the young people and adults as I go about the County. However I attended a Cub Scout Pack last week where not one adult or young person was wearing it. As you know from above all the proceeds will be contributed to **The We Care Appeal**. Please get your young people a badge and also ensure all the leaders have them. Remember also to have enough for those young people and leaders who will be joining us during this special year. Together we can gift a large sum for just 100 pennies each. For those who do not wear uniform or just for your collection we also have a metal badge.

The cloth and metal badges are available from the Trading Post, Rowington Road, Norwich. You can order them by phone 01603 619194.

Top Awards

I was delighted to attend the Top Awards Ceremony on the 3rd November in Gt Yarmouth when over 400 young people and parents came to celebrate the success of the award holders. The Chairman of Norwich City Football joined us. He presented the special County Certificate to those young people who had attained the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum or Diamond award.

I was so pleased to see so many young people gain the award this time. Please remember to register with County Office your members as soon as they gain the award so they get the opportunity to attend one of these special events.

MOOT 2009 *28th February and 1st March 2009.*

The MOOT 2009 is Full. We now have a waiting list for residential places.

This weekend of activities, workshops and general good fun for all Adults in the County has again proved very popular and we have tried hard to put together a programme that will be of interest to all. The Focus is on development, retention and recruitment.

We will now offer limited Day passes for the event. The details are available from the County Office. These passes are designed for those who are unable to give the whole weekend up or cannot stay for the residential part of the two days. Please ring 01603 502246 or email hq@norfolkscouts.org.uk

The County Secretary will next month be asking us for our final installment of the fees and soon we will know the theme of the Saturday evening Gala Dinner. I can advise you that it will be great fun and the band is very good at getting us onto the dance floor. What a great evening is planned for us.

County Appointments

Our County Scout Network Commissioner has now come to the end of his appointment term and I should like to place on record the thanks of so many young adults as well as the whole of the County team for what Matthew Burrell has achieved in this role. I am sure he will be a hard act to follow but we are now seeking his replacement. I have appointed a search group to seek out a new CSNC and nominations are now open. A role description and nomination form can be obtained from the County Secretary at Eaton Vale and the close date for receipt of the nominations is the 1st January 2009. Nominations should be sent to the County Office marked 'For the attention of the Chairman of the CSNC search group'

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As we increase the workload in development I am please to announce that I have appointed a County Scouter Development to assist Mike Clemo. Michael Vaughan will work on projects across the County and will also remain as a member of the 46th Norwich Hospital group.

I welcome Michael to the County Team and look forward to him assisting many local groups

He can be contacted through
The Action for Growth Development Project
Alec Bussey Centre
Rowington Road
Norwich 01603 619196

County Development Projects

As you will know we have been very fortunate to have the Action for Growth Project supporting the development in the County over the last six years. It is the intention of the County Executive to continue this project for a further three years to give support to local groups in developing the number of adult leaders we have across the County.

I am delighted to inform you that following several months of research and after seeking external funding which will be supported by some internal funding we will be starting a second Development project based on the three Districts of Norwich. Over 50% of all Scouts in Norfolk live within these three Districts and I believe we can maximise the potential for growth by the appointment of a second development worker assisting Mike in the task. This additional support will give Mike more time to concentrate of the remaining is Districts across the County.

I expect we will be advertising the post in January 2009 with an appointment expected in April 2009.

Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Centre

The centre, which you will know is owned by Norfolk Scouts and Girlguiding Norfolk, has undergone some changes over the summer months. The Site Coordinator after 18 years and he was associated with the growth and development of the business from a campsite to an activity centre and we wish him well in whatever he goes on to do. The team have been working very hard and the Directors appointed an interim manager to consolidate the business and increase the customer base and reorganise how we manage the site. Much work has been undertaken in the areas of health and safety and business processes. The professional posts of Operational Manager and Site Co-ordinator have been advertised and a very large and strong field has been attracted.

We are sorry to see the Friends group has decided to close but I am sure the new management will look to introduce a service team and support organisation when the time is right. We place on record Norfolk Scouts thanks to the Friends who have supported the site over the years.